

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet, which includes Fig. 2, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 2. In Fig. 2, the reference line for element number 16 has been corrected to properly show the placement of the outlet hose 16.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1)
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes (1)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 6-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the drawings, specification, and claims 1-4 and 6-17 are amended, claims 18-24 are added, and claim 5 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. New claim 18 is allowable claim 17 written in essentially independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 18, as well as new claims 19-23, which depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claim 12 are responsive to the Examiner's comments, and that claim 12 meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,794,290 to Roberts. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a drum type washing machine, comprising, *inter alia*, at least one corresponding ceramic receiver provided on an inner surface of the drum and configured to receive the at least one ceramic piece therein, wherein each ceramic receiver comprises a housing having a first, open side which is configured to face a corresponding portion of the inner surface of the drum and to receive the at least one ceramic piece therein, and a second, circumferential side including a plurality of openings formed therein, and a cover configured to cover the first, open side of the housing. Roberts neither discloses nor suggests at least such features, let alone the claimed combination of features.

Roberts discloses a ceramic tile 10 which may be fitted to the inside of a wash basket 12 to improve the washing ability of wash water. The tile 10 includes a concave side 14 which faces the interior of the wash basket 12, and a convex side 18 which is adhered to the inner surface of the wash tub 12 by adhesive strips 20, 22 (such as VelcroTM). The adhesive strips 20, 22 cover the entire convex side 18 of the tile 10 (see column 2, lines 66-67 of Roberts), with one of the strips permanently attached to the convex side 18 of the tile 10, and the other of the strips permanently attached to the inner surface of the wash basket 12 (see column 3, lines 1-5 of Roberts). The concave side 14 of the tile 10 includes depressions 16 which increase the effective surface area of the concave side 14 of the tile 10. Roberts discloses different embodiments with different shape tiles and different types of adhesive strips.

It appears that the Examiner has drawn a comparison between the tile 10 and adhesive strips 20, 22 disclosed by Roberts, and the at least one ceramic and at least one corresponding

receiver recited in independent claim 1. If such a comparison is to be drawn, then it is respectfully submitted that Roberts neither discloses nor suggests at least one corresponding receiver as recited in independent claim 1. More specifically, the tile 10 is positioned onto the strips 20, 22 to attach the tile 10 to the wash basket 12. Neither of the strips 20, 22 includes any type of receiving space. Thus, Roberts necessarily neither discloses nor suggests that the strips 20, 22 are able to receive the tile therein, as is the at least one corresponding receiver recited in independent claim 1, let alone a receiver comprising a housing and a cover as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Roberts, and thus the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Roberts should be withdrawn. Dependent claim 2 is allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which it depends, as well as for its added features.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 3-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Roberts in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,036,177 to Aouad et al. (hereinafter “Aouad”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 3-12 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features. Further, Aouad fails to overcome the deficiencies of Roberts as set forth above with respect to independent claim 1.

It is noted that the present application was filed on November 25, 2003, claiming priority to Korean Patent Application No. 2002-74956 filed in Korea on November 28, 2002. Aouad was filed on February 13, 2003, claiming priority to provisional Application No. 60/356,544 filed on February 13, 2002 (hereinafter “the Aouad provisional application”). The November 28, 2002 priority date associated with the present application pre-dates the February 13, 2003 filing date of the Aouad patent, and thus only subject matter supported by the Aouad provisional application may be properly applied in a rejection of the present application. Thus, any references hereinafter to Aouad are to the Aouad provisional application and the subject matter included therein, a copy of which is provided for the Examiner’s convenience.

Aouad discloses a housing structure for laundry rinse additives (i.e., fabric softener) in Figure 1 (referred to in the Office Action). The housing includes a hollow shell 10 with an opening 11 covered by a lid 12 through which a rinse additive packet may be inserted, and apertures 14 and slits 15 through which rinse additive may be dispersed from and rinse water may enter into the housing, respectively, during a rinse cycle. After a wash cycle is complete and the used wash water has been drained from the drum 27, and a high speed spin cycle is initiated, the centrifugal force of the spin cycle causes the additive packet to move within the housing, be punctured, and remain in this new position until the spin cycle is completed. As the drum 27 fills with water for the rinse cycle, the rinse additive is flushed from the housing through the apertures 14 and slits 15 and introduced into the rinse water.

The opening 11, as well as the apertures 14 and slits 15, in the housing are all formed in the curved surface facing the interior of the drum 27. Aouad neither discloses nor suggests that there the housing includes an open surface which faces the interior surface of the drum 27, let alone that such an open surface is provided to receive any type of additive therein. Rather, each of the open portions of the housing, including the opening 11 through which the rinse additive packet is inserted, is provided on the curved surfaces facing away from the drum 27. Thus, Aouad neither discloses nor suggests a housing having a first, open surface which is configured to face the drum and to receive the at least one ceramic therein, and a second, circumferential surface including a plurality of holes formed therein, as recited in independent claim 1, let alone a cover configured to cover the first, open surface, as recited in independent claim 1. Therefore, Aouad fails to overcome the deficiencies of Roberts as set forth above.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-12 are allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of claims 3-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Roberts in view of Aouad should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Roberts in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,211,689 to Kobayashi, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,419,855 to Kikuta. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 13-16 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features. Further, Kobayashi is merely cited as allegedly teaching the use of ceramic powder, and Kikuta is merely

cited as allegedly teaching the use of alumina and silica. Thus, Kobayashi and Kikuta, either alone or in combination, fail to overcome the deficiencies of Roberts. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 13-16 are allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of claims 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Roberts, Kobayashi and Kikuta should be withdrawn.

V. New Claims 18-24

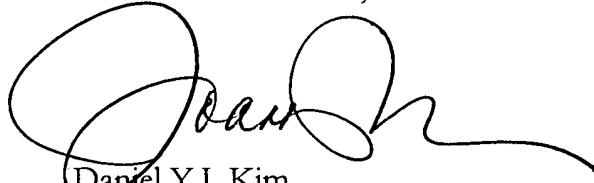
New claims 18-23 are added to the application. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 18-24 also define over the applied prior art references and meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. More specifically, as set forth above, new independent claim 18 is allowable claim 17 written in independent form. Thus, new independent claim 18, as well as new claims 19-24, which depend therefrom, should be in condition for allowance.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **JOANNA K. MASON**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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FIG. 2
Prior Art

